

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

These remarks are made in response to the Office Action of June 6, 2007 (Office Action). As this response is timely filed within the 3-month shortened statutory period, no fee is believed due. However, the Examiner is expressly authorized to charge any deficiencies to Deposit Account No. 50-0951.

In the Office Action, Claims 1-19 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent 6,490,553 to Van Thong, *et al.* (hereinafter Van Thong). Although Applicants respectfully disagree with the rejections, Applicants nevertheless have amended some of the claims so as to expedite prosecution of the present application by emphasizing certain aspects of the invention. Applicants respectfully note, however, that the amendments are not intended as, and should not be interpreted as, the surrender of any subject matter. Indeed, Applicants respectfully reserve the right to present the original version of any of the amended claims in any future divisional or continuation applications from the present application.

More particularly, Applicants have amended independent Claims 1, 8, and 15 to further emphasize certain aspects in the claims. Applicants have cancelled dependent Claims 2, 9, and 16 and have amended dependent Claims 3, 4, 10, 11, 12, 17, 18, and 19 to maintain the consistency among the claims. As discussed herein, the claim amendments are fully supported throughout the Specification. No new matter has been introduced by the claim amendments presented.

Certain Aspects Of The Invention

It may be useful to reiterate certain aspects of Applicants' invention prior to addressing the cited reference. One embodiment of the invention, typified by Claim 1, is a method of dynamically and automatically adjusting a speech output rate to match a speech input rate.

The method can include receiving a speech input, and from the speech input, computing a speech input rate. The method further can include determining the type of speech output that is to be provided. Specifically, the method can include determining whether the type of speech output to be provided at the speech output rate is a text-to-speech or recorded speech output. (See, e.g., Specification, paragraph [0005], lines 8-15; paragraph [0011], lines 9-13; and paragraph [0012], lines 1-2.)

The method also can include dynamically adjusting the speech output rate to match the speech input rate. More particularly, the speech output rate can be adjusted based upon the particular type of the speech output. (See, e.g., Specification, paragraph [0005], lines 8-15, and paragraph [0012], lines 1-2.)

The Claims Define Over The Cited Reference

Independent Claims 1, 8, and 15 were, as already noted, rejected as having been anticipated by Van Thong. Van Thong is directed to a system for producing "off-line closed captions," or "time-aligned transcriptions," of an audio track. (Van Thong, Col. 2, lines 33-35.)

Applicants respectfully submit, however, that Van Thong fails to expressly or inherently teach every feature recited in Claims 1, 8, and 15. For example, Van Thong does not contemplate any need for, nor provide any mechanism for, determining whether a type of speech output to be provided at the speech output rate is text-to-speech or recorded speech output, as explicitly recited in Claims 1, 8, and 15.

At page 3 of the Office Action, it is stated that this feature is disclosed by Van Thong's audio classifier. However, the procedure effected with Van Thong's audio classifier is, in several fundamental respects, different from Applicants' invention.

Firstly, Van Thong's audio classifier classifies an audio *input*; it does not have anything to do with a speech *output*:

"the audio classifier 15, sorts the input audio 13 into different categories: spoken text, music, etc. Of interest are in the spoken parts of the input audio 13 track because the spoken parts need to be transcribed. Possibly, a particular noise or sound other than spoken language may need to be captioned. However, only the spoken parts 17 as sorted or filtered by the audio classifier 15 are sent to the next module 19." (Van Thong, Col. 3, lines 42-49.) (Emphasis supplied.)

Thus as this description makes explicit, Van Thong's audio classifier classifies audio *input*, not audio *output*. Accordingly, Van Thong does not expressly or inherently classify or otherwise affect in any way a speech *output*.

Even more fundamentally, Van Thong does not distinguish between *types* of speech. Rather, Van Thong's audio classifier classifies *elements* of speech. Specifically, with respect to an audio input, Van Thong classifies "parts" of an audio input: for example, "spoken parts" versus "noise." Distinguishing different parts of an audio input, however, has nothing to do with determining the *type* of either an audio input or audio output.

Accordingly, Van Thong does not even consider, let alone provide a mechanism for, determining whether a type of speech output to be provided at the speech output rate is text-to-speech or recorded speech output, as explicitly recited in Claims 1, 8, and 15. It follows, therefore, that Van Thong also fails to expressly or inherently teach dynamically adjusting a speech output rate to match a speech input rate such that the speech output

rate is adjusted based upon the type of speech output, as also explicitly recited in Claims 1, 8, and 15.

Thus, Van Thong fails to expressly or inherently teach every feature recited in independent Claims 1, 8, and 15. Applicants respectfully maintain, therefore, that Claims 1, 8, and 15 define over the prior art. Applicants further respectfully submit that, whereas each of the remaining claims depends from Claim 1, 8, or 15 while reciting additional features, these dependent claims each define over the prior art as well.

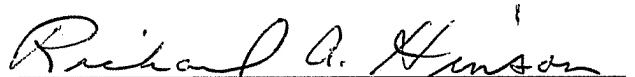
CONCLUSION

Applicants believe that this application is now in full condition for allowance, which action is respectfully requested. Applicants request that the Examiner call the undersigned if clarification is needed on any matter within this Amendment, or if the Examiner believes a telephone interview would expedite the prosecution of the subject application to completion.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date: September 6, 2007


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